

REAL PICTURES OF THE BOERS AND TRUE SCENES OF THE TRANSVAAL WAR, TAKEN IN THE BURGER STRONGHOLDS.

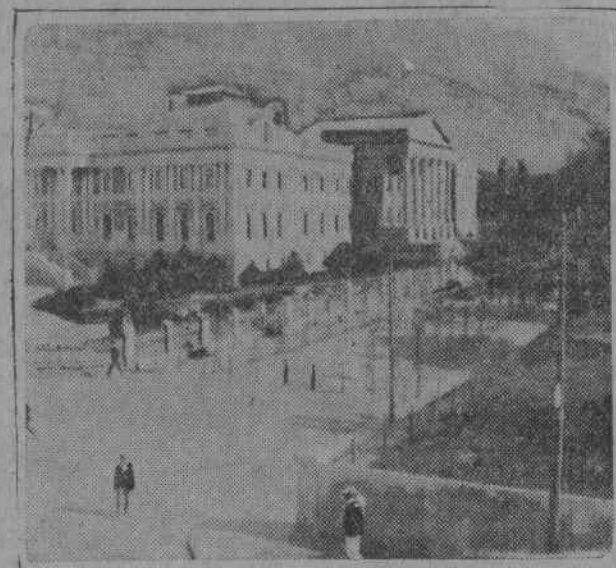
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FATHER
SON AND
GRAND SON



BURGHERS AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF PRISONERS



GROOT HOUSE

PRESIDENT STEYN TO THE JOURNAL.

The Leading Burgher of the Orange Free State Gives Freely the Reasons Why He Has Shouldered a Rifle and Fights as Kruger's Ally.

Orange Free State joining with the republic of the Transvaal was this:

"As men of one blood and men believing in right there was nothing else for us to do. I think you will find that in this State we have given a welcome to every man who desires to become a citizen. Our brothers and cousins to the north have done the same so far as they could.

"When the Jameson raid took place we all discovered to what desperate ends the greed for gain had driven the capitalists. Then, as a means for mutual protection from a similar raid in the future, we made an alliance with the Transvaal Government for joint defence. Of course, you know, this Government has long been recognized by England as a sovereign State. Of late Mr. Chamberlain has claimed that England's suzerainty over the Transvaal was tacitly understood. If you will spend to-morrow reading the diplomatic correspondence at the Government building you may see, as a disinterested person, the false issues the English Government has championed.

"As a State we have nothing to gain and all to lose. As men of this State there was only one course for us to pursue.

The Great Trek of 1837.

"The Boers trekked into these parts early in 1837. They went on to Natal, where the wars with the Zulus were so fierce and bloody that some of them came back to this Territory, which was then a howling wilderness of wild beasts. They had scarcely settled in their new homes before Governor Sir Harry Smith, of the colony, proclaimed the English sovereignty over us again. He sent a command of soldiers to enforce the proclamation. They were met by a handful of Boers at Boomplaats, where an engagement took place. It resulted very naturally, under the conditions, in favor of the English, and the sovereignty was decided.

"Afterward Sir Harry Smith sent 10,000 men under General Cathcart to proclaim that part west of our present boundary which was occupied by the Basutos. The Basutos were, as they are now, a magnificent race of fighting men, and their army at that time was enormous. The British were so thoroughly defeated by the natives that they retreated back to the colony and informed the English Government that the country north of the Orange River was fit only for wild beasts and savages, and that it would cost England an enormous sum to rule it. You see, they had stirred up the Basutos, and since the natives had defeated such an army of Englishmen the Basutos concluded that their respect for a handful of Boer hunters and farmers was not well founded.

England Turns a Gold Shoulder.

"The Basutos began raiding the settlements and stealing all the cattle. We pleaded with England to protect us, since they had stirred up the natives and claimed us as subjects. But they refused, and said we must return to the colony or shift for ourselves.

"The Rev. Dr. Murray, who is still in this country, went to England and protested against the abandonment of the Boers after we were being attacked by countless thousands of blacks that the English soldiers had stirred up. Sir Russell Clark said, and his declaration is a part of the English records, that the country north of the colony was not fit for white men. If we were determined not to return to the colony we were told to make our own government and to protect it ourselves.

"So the Free State was organized.

"England signed the convention of 1854, granting absolute and total independence to us. The convention provided that England would never interfere with the natives on the north of the Orange River; that we were to receive a fair share of the custom duties on imported goods consumed in our State; and also that all our ammunition would always be delivered to us free of duties. From 1854 to 1864 the Basutos made periodical raids on our farms, driving away the cattle and killing all the inhabitants they could.

"President Brant saw that no progress could be made in the State until the Basutos were conquered, and from 1864 to 1869 the Boers, fifteen hundred men capable of fighting, waged war on the blacks. We drove them from kopje to kopje, from stronghold to stronghold, until finally we had them on their knees in their last stronghold.

A Bankrupt Little Nation.

"Now comes one of those despicable traits of the English character. Just as soon as the English saw that we were arranging a treaty with the Basutos Sir Philip Wodehouse stepped in and proclaimed the Basutos under British protection. They took the Territory. You see at once that after three years'



PRESIDENT KRUGER

desperate fighting we were bankrupt as a Government.

"We had three shillings in the treasury.

"The farmers had returned to their original desolation. Just when we thought we were going to secure the fruits of our war England took the Territory, which is the richest in South Africa. We could not help ourselves.

"In violation to the convention giving us our independence England had stopped our ammunition during the last part of the desperate struggle with the savages.

"We had always received just such treatment. We simply had to submit.

"From that time the Basutos have had great respect for Boer bullets, but they have remained as a menace on our border.

"To-day they are probably the finest body of native soldiers in the world. England has armed them. For what purpose? But I am getting ahead of my story.

"At the end of the same year that England robbed us of the most fertile part of Africa an old bushman was sitting near his kraal one day when he noticed a brilliant stone lying near him. He picked it up and took it to an old Boer in the vicinity. It was very pretty, and the old Boer gave it to his children to play with. A wandering Jew pedler came across it in his hands and immediately recognized its value.

The Greatest Robbery in History.

"The news spread over the world. Diamonds had been discovered.

"Now comes the greatest robbery in history.

"Diamonds were first discovered north of the Orange River, near its confluence with the Limpopo River. At once England claimed the territory. We protested.

"In the papers accompanying the convention giving us our independence were titles to farms, right where the diamonds were discovered. When we produced this evidence England changed the foundation of her claims and stated that the territory was hers by right of sovereignty over a race of natives near that section.

"Then we pointed out the explicit article in the convention in which she agreed not to in any way meddle with the natives north of the Orange River.

"But in the meantime English officials made out a definition of our western border. This made the diamond fields just west of our border. The boundary was defined as running due north from a certain kopje on the Orange River over 'David's grave'—the burial ground of an old chief—to the Vaal River. Then more diamonds were discovered farther east. The Britons claimed these as being on British territory.

"One night some miners moved 'David's grave' further east. We were protesting that even this fictitious boundary did not include the new diamond field. They surveyed it and, sure enough, the miners had failed to move the grave far enough east by about two miles.

What Was There to Do?

"Then they put the British flag up over the mines anyway and asked us what we were going to do about it.

"We were a handful of poverty stricken farmers.

"In desperation President Brant went to England in 1876 and urged the justness of his cause. Finally, when they had exhausted every pretext, they offered him £20,000 for the country they had stolen, and told him he could accept that or nothing. It was not a farthing in proportion to its value. But English soldiers were moving up toward the diamond fields. He took the money. They already had the richest part of the world.

"Since that time, my boy, we have lived in peace. We are a poor country,

as the world goes, but we have no debt. We have been good little boys, and England has pointed us out as the model little republic.

"I think I said we had no debt. To be accurate, we still owe £1,800,000 on our railways. They produce a net revenue to the Government of 20 per cent per annum on their cost. The market value of the Orange Free State Railroad to-day, even with war on our hands, is five times that of their indebtedness.

"In our little republic here you will not find many that nowadays would be termed wealthy men, but we all have a farm, and most of them are comfortable. But you should visit them yourself and see how they live and what they have to read. Gray College, which you probably passed this afternoon, is our main school for boys. I studied there myself before going to England and graduating in law. We have an institute for girls and a school where poor boys can learn the higher branches. These boys work a certain number of hours each day in the railway shops. Their wages cover all their personal expenses. When they graduate they go into the service of the Government in any branch of the railways they have elected to follow. They are under civil service, and when they reach sixty are retired on a Government pension.

"We have schools in every township in the State and a law compelling the fathers to send their children to school. Our State revenue, aside from the railways, is £300,000 per annum. Of this sum we expend £80,000 per annum on education. I may be wrong in my statement, but I think we expend a larger percentage of our revenue for public education than any government in the world. In 1874 we had 440 children in the schools. To-day we have 10,000 in regular attendance. The official language of the State is Dutch, but our education is bilingual.

No More English Education.

"Those of the burghers who could afford it have been sending their children to England to take the higher degrees. The degree of B. A. is taken here. But seeing that England represents imperialism, and the events of the past few years being particularly atrocious as regards the Transvaal, we decided last year to further foster the pride in republicanism by building an interstate college. Some of our burghers have almost been forced to the conclusion that it would be better for their boys to remain without the honors of a high degree than to receive them in an English atmosphere.

"What I have briefly told you is the least part of what we have suffered as a people. They are the historical things.

"The untold petty humiliations that have been heaped upon us have driven us into a war where we can scarcely hope to do more than to show the world at large or impress upon the minds of our growing children that we are self-respecting men. How England robbed the Transvaal of Natal and how she has now attempted to take the whole Government itself you will learn when you reach Pretoria."

The President had scarcely finished reciting his story when his secretary told him that some burghers had just arrived from the western border with some important military information. As we passed out of the library I noticed a large revolver on a holster that hung on a hatrack. The President noted that it attracted my attention.

"No man in the Government is exempt from military service," he said. "Before an English officer occupies this capital I shall use that and my rifle like the humblest burgher now in a laager."

GATACRE ISSUES A ROUND-UP ORDER.

Cape Town, Monday, Dec. 18.—General Gatacre, in order to check insurrection among the Dutch colonists and to prevent disaffected persons giving information or other assistance to the Boers, has issued a modified reconcentration order.

By its terms all males over twelve years of age, of whatever nationality, residing outside of towns or villages, but within a radius of twelve miles of military camps now established or hereafter to be established north of Stockroom, are required immediately to vacate their places of residence, and either to remove to some place outside the twelve-mile radius or to form a camp in close proximity to the nearest military camp—the spot to be selected by the officer commanding—where they must reside until further notice, providing for their own needs.

All persons found within the radii without passes will be arrested.

Advices from Colenso assert that many colonial Dutch have joined in that district.

Certain residents of Malmesbury, who had been Gatacre's republicans, are a dissent.

VERMONT'S KIND WORDS FOR KRUGER.

St. Johnsbury, Vt., Dec. 24.—Chamberlain Post, No. 1, Grand Army of the Republic, has unanimously adopted an address to President Kruger, of the Transvaal Republic, expressing the heartfelt sympathy of the members of the post with the cause of the Boers.

The address says the Boers' cause is that for which the Americans fought in the Revolution, and wishing the people of the Transvaal the same success and the eventual establishment of as grand a republic as the United States.

KITCHENER SAILS FOR GIBRALTAR.

Malta, Dec. 24.—General Lord Kitchener, chief of staff to General Lord Roberts, arrived here today from Alexandria on the British second-class cruiser Isis.

He went immediately on board the British cruiser Dido, which sailed for Gibraltar, where he will join Lord Roberts.

CENSORS SHUT OFF ALL THE BOER WAR NEWS.

All That England Is Allowed to Know Is That Kimberly, Ladysmith and Mafeking Are Left to Their Fate.

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London, Dec. 24.—Not a line of African news later than that of last Monday has been allowed to reach London.

The censors seem absolutely to have stopped the wires. All that London knows is that Buller, Methuen and Gatacre were fortifying their camps and hoping to hold out until relief arrives.

The Boers are endeavoring to encircle Methuen with intrenchments, while Buller and Gatacre seem to be unmenaced in the rear, but unable to move or take a step forward.

All hope of relieving Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking have been abandoned for the present, and they must take care of themselves as best they can. The British would eat their Christmas dinner in Pretoria sounds a hollow mockery to-day, as they have not even set for one Transvaal soldier. On the contrary, they are miles back from the positions they occupied when the war began.

Practically the only news issued by the War Office for the past week has been a list of casualties, while a midnight bulletin for England's Christmas reflection merely says: "There is no further news."

IRISH-AMERICAN AID FOR THE BOERS.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Nearly one-tenth of the money the Irish-American societies of Chicago and Cook County have agreed to raise toward the maintenance of an ambulance corps for the Boer army was pledged at a general committee meeting held last night.

John F. Flinn, president of the United Irish Societies, in his opening remarks to the delegates, said: "We have as much right to raise funds toward the relief of the Boers as have the citizens of this country at present in England, who have subscribed liberally to the relief of the families of the British soldiers."

President Flinn stated that the Irish societies virtually had pledged themselves to raise \$100,000 for the sick and wounded Boers.

KRUGER'S APPEAL STIRS WASHINGTON.

Washington, Dec. 24.—President Kruger's appeal to the people of the United States published in this morning's Journal aroused much interest here. The Administration is pro-British, as a matter of international policy, but Congressional Washington is pro-Boer, and there is good reason to believe that joint resolutions of sympathy will go through both houses, unless the Administration makes an issue of the matter. Even then speeches by the score will be made on the subject.

Senator William H. Mason, of Ill., who recently introduced a sympathy resolution and spoke on it strongly the other day, was particularly interested in the Journal's publication. Said he to-day: "I was glad to see the wide circulation guaranteed by its publication in the Journal. To me it seems that every American must sympathize with those republics and Kruger's manly words will not fail to arouse the sentiment existing in the hearts of Americans."

Senator H. D. Money, of Miss., said: "President Kruger's appeal, as printed in the Journal, cannot fail to inspire in the people of this country the same patriotic feeling that it has inspired in the people of the South African Republic. It is not surprising that the New York Journal should be the great vehicle to convey this appeal to the American people. The simple words of President Kruger, his straightforward and comprehensive presentation of the case of his country, and his plea for American sympathy, which was given with a keen sense of sympathy for the South African patriots."

Representative Robinson, of Ind., said: "President Kruger's appeal is a heart here. I think Congress will take action in sympathy with the Boers by the passage of a resolution. It is not surprising that the New York Journal should be the great vehicle to convey this appeal to the American people. The simple words of President Kruger, his straightforward and comprehensive presentation of the case of his country, and his plea for American sympathy, which was given with a keen sense of sympathy for the South African patriots."